

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

**Please amend paragraph [016] beginning on page 7 of the Specification as shown below:**

[016] Therefore, there is a need in the art for improved routing protocols for use in mobile ad hoc networks. In particular, there is a need for an improved routing protocol that does not rely on a single metric for determining the best routes from a source MANET node to a destination MANET node.

**Please amend paragraph [042] beginning on page 19 of the Specification as shown below:**

[042] Next, the intermediate nodes on the return path handle the unicast RREP message by updating the node and link cost parameters in a manner similar to the steps shown in FIGURE 3. When an intermediate MANET node receives the RREP message from destination MANET node 104, the intermediate MANET node updates its local routing table so that the entry for the route from destination MANET node 104 includes the cost information received in the RREP message (process step 415). The intermediate MANET node then updates the link cost parameters in the RREP message to include the link costs (e.g., bit error rate) associated with the previous hop from destination MANET node 104 (process step 420). The intermediate MANET node also updates the node cost parameters in the RREP message to include the node costs associated with the intermediate MANET node (process step 425). Finally, the intermediate MANET node forwards the updated RREP message to the next MANET node in the return path (process step 430). When the RREP message finally reaches source MANET node 101, source MANET node 101 ~~104~~ updates its routing

table so that the entry for the route associated with destination MANET node 104 includes the final, updated link and node cost information received in both the updated RREQ message and the updated RREP message (process step 435).